THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There are three Regional Passport Offices in Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow, Bareilly, Ghaziabad. There is no shortage of staff in Bareilly. However, Passport Offices in Lucknow and Ghaziabad have some shortage of staff, and this shortage has been addressed by enlisting the services of casual workers.

(b) No, Sir. However, there were delays in some cases due to late receipt of Police Verification Reports, shortage in supply of passport booklets by the India Security Press, Nashik and submission of incomplete information and documents by the applicants.

(c) and (d) The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance has recently carried out a detailed work-study in Passport Offices in India. The SIU has recommended creation of 293 additional posts in various categories; a proposal for augmentation of staff has been submitted to the competent authorities for approval.

Revival of coastline

*493. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are all set for revival of India's coastline and have approached the Planning Commission to seek World Bank's assistance of Rs. 500 crores to shave India's 7516 km. long coastline; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Government constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr MS Swaminathan to "carry out a quick but comprehensive review of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, in the light of the findings and recommendations of all previous commitees, judicial pronouncements, representations of various stakesholders and suggest suitable amendments, if necessary, to make the regulatory framework consistent with well established scientific principles of coastal zone management."

Ministry of Environment & Forests, based on the recommendations of M.S. Swaminathan Committee to review the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, conducted discussions with the World Bank and

forwarded a broad outline of a proposal of Rs. 500 crore to the Planning Commission on "Implementation of the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee Report on Coastal Zone Management" in January 2006. It was requested to accord approval for posing the project to World Bank. Planning Commission has conveyed its no objection to Ministry of Environment & Forests for posing the proposal to World Bank and requested to furnish the final Project Report with firmed up costs and time frame.

The proposal for a tentative amount of Rs. 500 crore for 6 years provides the following three specific components proposed to be posed to the World Bank for financial assistance.

1. Mapping and demarcation (Rs. 10 crore): The activities include demarcation and mapping of coastal areas, hazard lines, pilot studies and preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans for identified stretches.

2. Institutional building (Rs. 60 crore) : The component provides for setting up a National Institute for Coastal Zone Management and two Regional Centres at Lakshadweep and Andamans respectively. The location of the national Institute has not been indicated. It also includes setting up of a digital gateway for sustainable coastal zone management and strengthening and capacity building of Coastal Zone Management Authorities.

3. Pollution control (Rs. 300 crore): It provides for prevention and control of pollution of coastal and marine water from land based activities.

Bangalore Metro Rail Project

*494. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have approved the Bangalore Metro Rail Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of phases in which this project will be completed; and

(d) by when this prestigious project would be completed?